

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

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What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was built.

Sunday, 30th August 2026 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

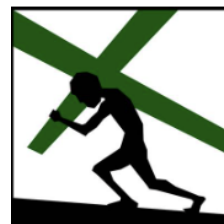
Gospel Acclamation.

See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!



Gospel. [Matthew 16:21-27](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 30:20](#)

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

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Remembering Gerry Bulters

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Gerry Bulters, recently deceased. Gerry was a foundation member of our Parish & for many years was the financial controller within our Parish Council.

We are indebted to Gerry for his contribution- he was critical in arranging finance for our Parish buildings

R.I.P. Gerry

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Jim Goodwin, Hugh Fitzpatrick, Carlyle John Eivers and Gerry Bulters; and for John Vanderloo whose death anniversary is at this time. We pray that their families find comfort in the fact that they are safely in the arms of their loving Lord. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Barry Smith, Stacey Mazzerella, Didi Barnes, Riley Beecham, Joseph Stipich, Jeremy Everett, Antony McLaughlin, Joe Gray, Michael Hatch, Phillip Fitzgerald, Jenny Griffiths, Greg Wood, Noelene Bangel, Karen Allen, Julie Young, Gabriel Manouk, Danko Caran, Sean Murray, Franco Di Napoli Laurie Doohan, Linda Hicks, Michelle Gardam, Bradley Gardam, Cecilia Fanning, Kathleen Bell, Michelle Hadden, Cohen Hadden, Peter Joseph Apap, Sr Patricia Holligan, Greg Pigott, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Desley Mulock, Pauline Balkin, Mary Gayed, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, Lucy Mikosic, Bernadette Hoolahan, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, Maddie Millard, and Trish Devoy. If you know someone who needs prayers, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041 and we will add them to our prayer list. For privacy reasons, consent is required from the person, who is unwell, or from their next of kin.



Parish Notices:

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us on the 13th September, after the 9.30am Mass. All welcome!

Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm. *During the winter months, we will meet in the Parish Office.* Any donations of 8ply acrylic wool would be gratefully accepted. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254).

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *The next playgroup will be Tues 8th September*

Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am Mass. *Next children's liturgy: 27th September*

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7) 2nd Friday of the month, 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact the parish office on 4735 1041. *Next youth group: Fri 11th September*

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Honouring a lifetime of faithful service this Father's Day, we give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal. Envelopes are also available on the pews and can be returned over the next few weeks via the collection plates. Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
29/30 August 22nd Sunday Ordinary	C: Phillip Youngman IR: Isabella P Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS1: Josie JS2: Joseph	C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton John Cowen David Green Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS1: Hugo JS2: Daphne
5/6 September 23rd Sunday Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Trish Ryan Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS1: Felicity JS2: Charles	C: Paul Ryan R: Alex Jarominek Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS1: Charlotte JS2: Chelsea	C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Maria Michael Blair Connie Reid Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Jonah JS2: Ottavia

Sacramental News: Please join me in praying for the children and their families preparing for their Confirmation on 20th September.



Reflection on the Season of Creation – 1 September- 4 October

Had the world listened more closely to the wisdom of Native Americans, we might not now face such serious environmental consequences. They saw themselves as guardians of trees, plants, and wildflowers—caretakers responsible not only for the present, but for the seventh generation yet to come. Their insight still has much to teach us.

This idea is captured in the phrase **Intergenerational Equity**: the responsibility to care for the environment today so it remains healthy for future generations. We must remember that we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. As we approach the Season of Creation in 2026, this invites us to ask how we can make a difference. Our focus should be on bringing people together in solidarity, so the world is better for the seventh generation still to come. As polar adventurer Robert Swan famously said, **“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”**

We might also reflect on Mary's great **“yes”** when the angel told her she would become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted God's invitation to take her unique place in the story of the human family. In the prayer she shared with her cousin Elizabeth, Mary said, **“All generations will call me blessed.”** Her “yes” was a gift for every generation to come. These are wise words to ponder as we begin our **Season of Creation journey together at OLOW. We will celebrate Mass to mark the beginning of this season on Tuesday, 1st September at 9am.**



SEASON OF CREATION

<u>Parish Information</u> Parish office open Tues to Fri 9am to 3pm; Fri 9.30am-1pm. (ph: 4735 1041) Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku Deacon: Batsirai Maringehosi Parish Office Administrator: Joanne Hamilton Sacramental Co-ordinator: Cate Kensey Our Lady of the Way principal: Phillip Kapitanow (ph: 4777 7200) Penola Catholic college principal: Peta Sparkes (ph: 4728 8100) CathWest Innovation College principal: Paul Stenning (ph: 02 8886 9500) St Vincent de Paul Contact Centre: For assistance call 1800 606 724.	Weekend Mass times: Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am Filipino Mass-3rd Sunday of the month:12pm Weekday Masses: Tuesday 9am Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament at 8.30am Thursday before Mass. Benediction last Thursday of the month. First Fridays of the month – healing Mass. Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30 – 5:15pm. Sacraments: baptisms and weddings by appointment. Please contact the parish office (emuplains@parracatholic.org) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.
<u>Diocese of Parramatta Notices:</u> Music Workshop for Weddings & Funerals: 10 September All musicians in the diocese are invited to attend the Office for Worship's new upcoming music workshop on 10 September at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre from 7pm-8:30pm. Mr Eric Grella will focus this workshop on choosing music that is suitable for weddings and funerals and will be present to answer any questions you may have. Please register via parracatholic.org/music-workshop Be a Witness to the Holy Shroud of Turin Exhibition at St Patrick's Cathedral: 6-13 September An extraordinary opportunity to encounter the mystery and history of the Holy Shroud of Turin. Show in the Chapel St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 6–9 September 2026 — Open all day. 10–13 September 2026 — Open till late. And while you're there, experience Be the Witness, a powerful musical exploring the life of Jesus through the eyes of Peter from 10–13 September 2026 at Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. Annual African Mass 2026: 27 September The African Catholic communities of the Diocese of Parramatta, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office for Migrant Chaplaincies and the Nigerian and Ghanaian Chaplaincies, warmly invite you to the African Mass 2026. Join us on Sunday 27 September from 1pm–5pm at Mary Queen of the Family Parish (St Patrick's Church), 51–59 Allawah Street, Blacktown, for a vibrant celebration of faith, culture and community. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided following Mass. All are welcome. Parish Feast Day Triduum & Celebration at St. Padre Pio Parish: 17-20 September All are welcome to join St. Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park in celebrating the Feast Day of St Padre Pio. A 3-day Triduum Novena and Mass will be held on Thursday 17 Sept and Friday 18 Sept at 7:00pm and on Saturday 19 September at 5.30pm. On Sunday 20 September, a procession will start at 10am, followed by the Feast Day Mass, Veneration, Blessing with his Relic and fellowship meal. For any enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org	
<u>Feast days of the week:</u> Aug 31st – St. Aidan Sept 1st – St. Anna the Prophetess Sept 2nd – St. Ingrid of Sweden Sept 3rd – St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor Sept 4th – St. Boniface I, Pope Sept 5th – St. Teresa of Calcutta	<u>Parish bank details:</u> If you would like to support our priest and church financially through online banking: Name: Emu Plains Catholic church BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 00000289